Revival of Indo-US sub-commission on trade and economy

7516. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and U.S. have recently signed an M.O.U. to revive the sub-commission on trade and economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the two countries have also agreed to set up the Indo-U.S. Business Partnership Initiative; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Disposal of cases of labour cooperative societies by BIFR

7517. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received from labour cooperative societies and disposed of favourably by BIFR;

(b) the number of industries restarted after approval of BIFR;

(c) whether BIFR had approved restarting of Mafatlal Engineering Industry through labour cooperative; if so, what is its present status; and

(d) whether Government will issue directive to implement decisions of BIFR on time bound basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Industrial companies which are sick have to make a reference to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under Section 15 of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). BIFR has reported that while formulating a scheme for revival of a Sick Industrial Company, they may consider proposals, if any, received from workers to form a cooperative to run the company. No 'application' as such is necessarily received from the workers. Further, the "Labour Cooperative Society" comes into existence alongwith the formulation/implementation of the revival scheme.

BIFR has further reported that it has so far sanctioned five cases of revival of Sick Industrial Companies through workers' cooperatives. Of these two cases are under implementation. The other three cases have not yet taken-off.

(c) The workers of M/s. Mafatlal Engineering Industries Ltd. had evinced interest to form a cooperative to run the company but no progress could be made in this regard. In February, 1993, BIFR formed a prima facie opinion that it was just and equitable that the company be wound-up and issued a show cause notice. However, proceedings before BIFR were stayed by the Bombay High Court in July, 1993.

(d) As per the provisions of SICA, a revival scheme sanctioned by BIFR is binding on all concerned. The Act also provides for penalty for violation of sanctioned schemes.

Duty on coated paper

7518. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that paper coating industry is divided into three categories viz. exclusively paper coating units; base paper producing and coating units with unconventional raw materials having less than 33,000 PTA; bigger units using both unconventional raw materials and pulp;

(b) whether it is also a fact that exclusive paper coating units invest Rupees 4 crores in their plants, while mix units doing paper coating and producing base paper invest more than Rupees 20 crores and have much larger turn over compared to exclusive paper units;